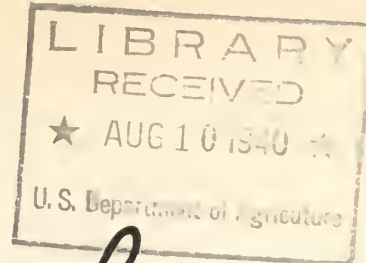


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NEWS
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Facts for NORTHEAST COMMITTEEMEN

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COMMITTEEMEN ELECTIONS FOUNDATION OF AAA PROGRAM

Within the next few months 7,000 AAA committeemen in the Northeast, the essential foundation for a democratically functioning farm program, will be elected by more than 249,000 participating fellow farmers. A quarter of a million Americans will have the right to gather in every county and community of the nine Northeastern States to select the representatives who will be responsible for developing the policies and administering the provisions of their farm program.

These AAA committeemen will assume a heavy responsibility, not only to the farm program but to democracy. Today when agriculture and all the other forces in the country are concerned with National Defense, it is the double duty of every AAA farmer to show that democracy does work, and to do his part in expressing it by voting in the coming committeemen election.

During the past seven years the farm program has contributed materially to the well-being of agriculture and the Nation. We have made great progress toward our objectives of abundance, conservation, and equitable income. But perhaps the greatest single achievement of the program has been the development of a new unity of American farmers that gives to agriculture the continuing power to meet change as it occurs.

Every cooperating farmer in the Northeast has the legal right to share in this new unity through the democratic process of the committeemen elections.

Every AAA farmer has equally the duty to vote in these elections.

Administrator.

NORTHEAST REPRESENTATIVES ON NATIONAL FARM AND HOME HOUR

Committeemen from every State in the Union were heard on the National Farm and Home Hour broadcasts on July 10, 11, and 12 in connection with the National AAA Conference. The following are brief excerpts from the statements of representatives of States in the Northeast Region:

W. F. Sinclair, Vermont: "In 1939, to improve our pastures and meadows we used more than seven times as much superphosphate as we used in 1936, and 1936 was a big year compared with the years before."

Paul E. Sargeant, New Hampshire: "We have cleared nearly 14,000 acres of hurricane slash which had been a veritable tinderbox. In addition we are applying to our soil this year five times as much lime and twelve and one-half times as much superphosphate as we used four years ago. We now grow clover and alfalfa much more successfully and we have made a gain of several hundred percent in the number of acres of pasture top-dressed."

James E. Walker, Pennsylvania: "Last year the farmers in the AAA program used three and one-half times as much lime as all the farmers in the State used annually before the program. We applied lime on over a half million acres, and superphosphate on about 350,000 acres. Much of the lime and superphosphate went on pastures."

Kenneth S. Roberts, New Jersey: "Besides many gains in soil conservation, I should like to emphasize New Jersey's gains in leadership and cooperation. In administering our own farm program we have had to study national and international affairs affecting agriculture. And I am convinced that as far as National Defense is concerned, agriculture is the best prepared industry in the country."

Jacob Menzi, Rhode Island: "In five years we have increased our use of lime nearly 300 percent and of mineral fertilizers about 200 percent. With dairying our biggest source of farm income, Rhode Island farmers have gone in for pasture improvement in a big way. Ninety percent of our farmers are enrolled in the program this year."

R. H. Boothby, Maine: "Commercial potato growers in Maine are staying within their acreage allotments. And during the past season, the street price has been the most stable experienced in many years. Businessmen, as well as farmers, believe that the program is helping."

Raymond K. Clapp, Connecticut: "In Connecticut, participation is 12 percent greater than last year; farmer-committeemen are taking more responsibility; we're getting more lime and superphosphate into the soil by obtaining these materials as grants of aid in lieu of payments; and Connecticut farmers understand the program more clearly and discuss it more tolerantly."

A. C. Bardwell, Massachusetts: "Under a grant of aid, Massachusetts farmers now receive lime and superphosphate in lieu of cash payments. This year they have already received more than 23,000 tons of lime and 2,200 tons of superphosphate. These figures show big increases over last year."

John Wickham, New York: "New York enrollment in the agricultural program is well over 76,000 compared with 57,000 last year. There's one simple reason for the increase: New York farmers are finding out that the program meets their needs."

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL CONFERENCE

State AAA committeemen and officials of the Northeast Region, meeting in a two-day regional conference at Trenton, New Jersey July 8-9, developed detailed commodity and activity proposals which contributed materially to the recommendations of the National AAA Conference in Washington.

The following is a general summation of the sentiment of the meeting; reported by Joseph F. Cox, AAA-Extension Agronomist: *"The Northeast Region meeting was characterized by the confidence and faith of those attending, in the effectiveness and accomplishment of the AAA Farm Program and the effort of farmer-committeemen to shape the program for 1941 so as to secure the most positive value per dollar expended for sound conservation practices, and to keep allotted acreages of soil-depleting crops in line with market needs."*

PRESENT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AMPLE FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE

Dangers which would arise now from any drastic increase of agricultural production, even as a measure of National Defense, are vividly illustrated by the latest figures available on carry-over and expected yields in a majority of commodities.

Canada and the United States alone have enough wheat to meet world shortages, although together these two countries produce less than a quarter of the world supply.

Best estimates on wheat give a combined supply for the United States and Canada of nearly 1,750 million bushels. Consumption in the two countries is normally a little over 800 million. This leaves nearly one billion bushels available for world needs and reserves. The entire world trade in wheat has usually been not more than two-thirds of a billion bushels.

NEW YORK STATE TRIES NEW GRANT OF AID PLAN

A new and somewhat experimental method of distributing 20 percent superphosphate as grants of aid is being put into effect in New York State. The superphosphate will be delivered to individual farmyards by local dealers acting as agents for the company which was the low bidder for the county, as determined by competitive bids. Ordinarily, the county committee accumulates orders so as to deliver in carload lots at railroad sidings.

The cost of such superphosphate in the several counties has been averaged and a deduction of \$17.00 per ton will be made from the Agricultural Conservation Program checks to those producers who take this 20 percent material in lieu of cash payment. County association expenses are collected in cash at the time the order for the material is placed.

It is estimated that between 15,000 and 20,000 tons of superphosphate will be distributed in this way to cooperating AAA farmers in most of the counties of the State. If the plan proves successful it will be available for adoption in other States where it is desired.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 1941 PROGRAM OF INTEREST TO NORTHEAST

Simplified administrative procedure for grant-of-aid operations, changes in crops to which superphosphate may be added, provisions for orchard conservation, and increased opportunity to adapt the AAA program to individual farm requirements are National AAA Conference recommendations of principal interest to Northeastern cooperators.

The grant-of-aid liming program, through which well over 500,000 tons of lime have been applied in the Northeast in the nine months since November 1, 1939, will be streamlined to help farmers cooperate without being involved in unintentional violations of regulations. Such occurrences will be effectively eliminated in the 1941 program. Full details of the new administrative set-up for liming will be made available in the forthcoming 1941 Agricultural Conservation Program bulletin.

Recommended changes provide that any pasture or cropland, except that used for potatoes, vegetables, and tobacco, or any crop harvested for grain may have superphosphate applied as part of the conservation program.

It was recommended by the Conference that three orchard practices be adopted featuring maintenance of permanent cover in irrigated orchards and vineyards, contour irrigation on sloping vineyards and orchards, and contour planting of fruit and nut trees. A practice is included for the removal of uneconomic apple trees.

The conference recommended that, because of budget limitations, the \$30 tree planting allowance as provided in the 1940 program be discontinued.

Except for these particulars, the recommendations of the National Conference will effect little change in the AAA program in the Northeast. On the whole, the 1941 program will be continued much as it has been during the past year, with increased responsibility delegated to the State, county, and community committeemen. This importance of committeemen received special emphasis in the following recommendations of the Conference on educational activities:

"(Be it Resolved) That the AAA is the property of the public, held in trust by farmers; and as representatives of the farmers, committeemen have a signal responsibility in these perilous times to champion their cause and get the AAA message across.

"That the present world conditions emphasize the need for well-trained, well-informed committeemen as the hub of an effective educational program."

2,101 MEETINGS IN NEW YORK STATE

Farmers, townspeople, women's groups and others attended a total of 2,101 AAA meetings in New York State during the four-month period February 1 - June 1. Nearly 600 county and community committeemen were present at various of these meetings to discuss ACP plans and developments.